



BX 8957 .N4 A3
Presbyterian Church in the
U.S.A. Synod of New Jersey
Minutes of the ... annual
session of the Synod of New

copy 1





M I N U T E S

of the

S Y N O D O F N E W J E R S E Y

for the year ending

October, 1853.

MINUTES

of the

ANNUAL SESSION

of the

SYNOD OF NEW JERSEY

for the year 1853

- - - - -

Newark, New Jersey October 18, 1853

The Synod of New Jersey met according to adjournment at 3 o'clock p.m. in the 3rd Presbyterian Church in the city of Newark and was opened with a Sermon by the Rev. Henry Perkins, the Moderator, from Act 27th Chapter, 31st Verse.

After public worship the Synod was constituted with prayer.

Present

From the Presbytery of Elizabethtown

Ministers	Elders	Churches
Mr. Bond	Andrew A. Cadmus	Plainfield
Dr. Murray	John C. Hageman	Lamington
Mr. Cory	Jonathan Winans	1st Elizabethtown
Mr. English		Perth Amboy
Mr. Sheddan	Wm. Annan	Liberty Corner
Mr. Rankin	Chas. C. Lathrop	1st Rahway
Mr. Reinhardt	Peter D. Cross	Baskingridge
Mr. Petrie	Elias Marsh	Elizabeth Port
Mr. Edgar	John Van Bent	Pluckamin
Mr. J. Huntting		Westfield
Mr. Finley		New Vernon
Messrs. Martin and Milne		German Ch. Rahway
	Smith Bloomfield	2nd Woodbridge
	Thos. H. Shafer	2nd Rahway
	Thos. H. Morris	1st Woodbridge
	Daniel L. Bonnel	New Providence

Presbytery of Passaic

Ministers	Elders	Churches
Dr. Magie	Elihu Price	2nd Elizabethtown
Mr. Williamson		Chester
Mr. E. Harris		German Ch. Paterson
Mr. Kirtland	Wm. C. Wallace	Chatham Village

Presbytery of Passaic (cont)

<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Elders</u>	<u>Churches</u>
Mr. Edwards	Jacob D. Vermilye	3rd Newark
Mr. Street		Springfield
Mr. Townley	A. Cary	2nd Morristown
Mr. Hornblower	Elias Crane	Connecticut Farms
Mr. McLurray	Dr. Jonathan D. Marvin	1st Morristown
Mr. Musted		1st Paterson
Mr. G.M.S. Blauvelt	Daniel P. Merchant	Mount Freedom
Mr. Rosenthal	Samuel White	Flanders
	David Bond	Lyons Farms

Presbytery of New Brunswick

<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Elders</u>	<u>Churches</u>
Mr. Cogswell	John Howell	Ewing
Mr. I. Van Leren		
Mr. Cooley	R. Johnston Dey	1st Cranbury
Mr. Webster	W. Vail	Boundbrook
Mr. Henry	Henry Vandyke	Kingston
Mr. Rodgers	Josiah Ford	1st New Brunswick
Dr. Hodge		
Dr. McLean		2nd Cranbury
Mr. Baird	John P. Johnson	Freehold
Mr. Watson	John G. Quirhead	Pennington
Mr. Davidson		Dutch Neck
Mr. L. H. Vandoren		Nottingham
Dr. Hope		Hillstone
Mr. Hall	J.P. Conover	Middletown Pt.
Mr. Taylor		2nd Trenton
Mr. Rogers		Village Ch. Freehold
Mr. White		2nd Princeton
Mr. Duffield		Lawrence
Mr. Green		2nd New Brunswick
Mr. Gosman	John Wellinger	Titusville
Mr. Davis		Shrewsbury
Mr. S. Hamill		Squan Village
	Joseph G. Brearly	3rd Trenton
	Wm. Torrey	Manchester
	John H. Hageman	1st Princeton

Presbytery of Newton

<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Elders</u>	<u>Churches</u>
Mr. Tainge		Newton
Mr. Johnston	Wm. Merrit	Harmony
Mr. Hand		Middle Smithfield
Mr. Lewis	Joseph Kerr	Stroudsburgh
Dr. Wilson	John Carter	Greenwich
Mr. Condict		Musconetong Valley
Mr. Tully		Hackettstown

Presbytery of Lewton (cont)

<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Elders</u>	<u>Churches</u>
Mr. McWilliam		
Mr. Wells	Mr. McIlheny	Lower Mt. Bethel
Mr. Vanartsdalen		Upper Mt. Bethel
Mr. Neilly	Noah S. Cramer	Mansfield
Mr. Wood		Hardwick
Mr. Reeves		Marksborough
Mr. Simanton		Oxford
	Jacob Welch	German Valley
	Robert S. Kennedy	Stewartsville
	Howard Rarick	Fox Hill
	Alex A. Easton	Belvidere
	John Grate	Danville

Presbytery of Maritan

<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Elders</u>	<u>Churches</u>
Dr. Kirkpatrick		Amwell United 1st
Dr. Studdiford	Joseph G. Brown	Amwell 2nd
Mr. Hunt	Ashbel Welch	Lambertville
Mr. McNair		Rosemont
Mr. Farber	Robt. C. Stephens	Pleasant Grove
Mr. Spaid		Lower German Valley
Mr. B. Carril		Clinton
Mr. McJimpsey		Wilford
Mr. Osmund		
	John Augler	Frenchtown
	John Hagerman	Amwell 1st
	Cornelius Williamson	Flemington

Presbytery of Susquehanna

<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Elders</u>	<u>Churches</u>
Mr. Snowden		Crawfordsville
Mr. Todd		Wells and Columbia
Mr. Foster		Rush
Mr. Colt		Herrick
Mr. Thomas		Warren
Mr. Camp		Wysox
Mr. Vandewater		Troy

Presbytery of Luzerne

<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Elders</u>	<u>Churches</u>
Mr. Glen	Calvin Parsons	Wilkesbarre
Mr. Johnston	George A. Smith	Mauch Chunk
Mr. Lorraine	Robt. W. Ruthben	Wyoming
Mr. Lane		Summit Hill
	Chas. Fuller	Scranton
	Geo. Higgin	Tamqua

Presbytery of West Jersey

<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Elders</u>	<u>Churches</u>
Dr. Kollock		Pittsgrove
Dr. Williamson		Greenwich
Dr. Jones		Cold Spring
Dr. Ford		
Dr. Brown	Hugh D. Woodruff	1st Bridgeton
Dr. Christian		Blackwoodtown
Dr. Annin		Woodbury

Presbytery of Burlington

<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Elders</u>	<u>Churches</u>
Dr. Perkins		Glentworth
Dr. Westbrook	Geo. Sinclair	Edgemoor
Dr. Miller		Burlington
Dr. Stebbins		

The roll having been called, the Rev. Dr. Davidson was chosen Moderator and the Rev. Messrs. Rodgers, McWilliam and Vandewater were chosen Clerks.

Resolved, that it be the order during the present sessions of Synod to meet at 9 o'clock a.m. to have a recess from $\frac{1}{2}$ past 12 to $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 and from $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5 p.m. until the hour of public worship in the evening.

Synod had a recess until the hour of public worship.

At the close of the recess Synod met when the Annual Sermon on Foreign Missions was preached by the Rev. Wm. H. Green, from Acts 10:28 verse last clause.

Synod then adjourned to meet tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. Concluded with prayer.

Wednesday Morning 9 O'clock

Synod met pursuant to adjournment and was opened with prayer- present as before together with Rev. F. E. Huntting, G. Sheldon, Oscar Harris, Samuel Matthews, Presbytery of Elizabethtown, Theodore Strong, Elder, Lackawanna, J. L. Ogden, Presbytery of Passaic, Dr. Janeway, Dr. Abcande, Presbytery of New Brunswick, Dr. Parke, Luzerne, Dr. Knighton, West Jersey, Dr. Samuel Barter, Elder, Mt. Holly, Presbytery of Burlington.

The Minutes of the last session of Synod were read.

The Minutes of the last stated meeting of Synod were read and Ministers absent from that meeting and now present assigned reasons for their absence which was sustained.

Mr. Archibald Stevens, Elder, from the church of Mt. Olive of the Presbytery of Passaic appeared, Rev. J. W. Blauvelt, Elizabethtown appeared, also Gilbert Reeve, Elder, from church of Springfield, Presbytery of Passaic. Rev. Samuel Strong of the Hampden East Association of Massachusetts invited to sit as a corresponding member.

The Moderator announced the appointment of the following committees (No. 1).

Resolved, that a committee of one from each Presbytery be appointed to consider and to consult on the best manner of dividing Synod, if deemed expedient and report to Synod as soon as practicable. Murray, Ogden, Watson, Jones, Kirkpatrick, Foster, Miller, Dorrance and Wilson.

Resolved, that the next stated meeting of Synod be held in the First Presbyterian Church of Paterson and that Mr. Hornblower and Mrs. Henry and Magie and Mr. David Burnett be appointed a committee on Religious Exercises of Synod.

Mr. Watson and Mr. Street were appointed committee to draft the narrative of State of Religion for next year.

It was made the order of the day for 3 o'clock this afternoon to take up the unfinished business of last Synod on Parochial Schools.

Geo. S. Woodhull of the Presbytery of West Jersey appeared in Synod and assigned satisfactory reasons for late attendance.

The committee appointed to examine Treasurer's Account made the following report which was accepted and adopted (insert).

Dr. Wilson of the committee appointed at last Synod to draft the narrative of the State of Religion reported and read the following which was accepted and adopted- and it was ordered that it be read by Dr. Wilson in connection with the exercises of the Synodical Prayer Meeting this evening- (No. 2).

A letter was received from Rev. Jonas Denton of the Presbytery of Passaic assigning reasons for his absence from this meeting of Synod and from the two former meetings which were regarded as satisfactory

The following were appointed a committee on division of Synod (No. 3).

The committee on Devotional Exercises of Synod at the meeting at Paterson reported, nominating Dr. Jones as preacher on Foreign Missions and Dr. Wilson his alternate. The report was adopted.

The Standing committee on the Sabbath reported verbally that encouraging success had so far attended their efforts and the efforts of Christians in arresting the profanation of the Sabbath and the committee was continued.

Rev. J. L. Janeway of the Presbytery of Meriden appeared in Synod and assigned satisfactory reasons for late attendance.

The Rev. Dr. Gustavus Abel of the Particular Synod of New York and Rev. Dr. Tuttle of the Synod of New York and New Jersey and the Rev. Dr. Kinney of the Methodist Episcopal Church being present were invited to sit as corresponding members of Synod.

Dr. Davidson appeared in Synod and satisfactorily explained to Synod the occasion of his absence from Synod.

It was then Resolved, that the Statistical Reports of the Presbyteries be read, excepting those parts of the reports which contain the rolls of the Ministers and churches. The reports were then read by the Stated Clerk of Synod.

Elias Dye, Elder from the 2nd Church of Cranbury and Thos. J. Stryker from the 1st Church of Trenton of the Presbytery of New Brunswick appeared in Synod and assigned satisfactory reasons for late attendance.

The committee appointed to revise the Standing Rules of Synod reported that in consequence of the indisposition of Mr. Rodgers the committee had been unable to attend to the business and the committee was continued.

Mr. Blythe and Dr. Hall of the Presbytery of New Brunswick appeared in Synod and assigned satisfactory reasons for late attendance.

The Stated Clerk having called the attention of Synod to some considerations and circumstances connected with the exceptions made by the General Assembly to the records of this Synod, the subject was referred to a committee consisting of Messrs. Burtis, Hornblower and Rodgers.

Rev. Hollis Read, of the Particular Synod of New York, etc., and the Rev. Dr. Bernard of the Synod of Tennessee being present were invited to sit as corresponding members.

Mr. Macdonald of the Presbytery of New Brunswick appeared in Synod and assigned satisfactory reasons for late attendance.

The Stated Clerk was ordered to forward to the General Assembly the Statistical Report of Synod.

The committee on bills and overtures were directed to meet in this house immediately after recess and afterwards on their own adjournment.

The committee on the subject of the division of Synod had leave to withdraw.

Presbyteries were called upon to report in regard to contributions to the Boards of the General Assembly. All Presbyteries reported except Burlington when it appeared that in general the churches had observed the order of Synod.

Synod had recess.

After recess Synod convened

It was resolved, that leave of absence from the session of Synod this evening be granted to such members of the Presbytery of Elizabethtown as may desire to be absent in attending to Presbyterial duty.

The Rev. Mr. Little of the Particular Synod of New York of the Reformed Dutch Church being present was invited to sit as corresponding member.

The committee on assessment for incidental expenses of Synod presented the following report which was accepted and adopted (On file).

The committee on Bills and overtures reported an overture from several members of the Synod inquiring, "is it right for ministers and church members to encourage fairs in which it is understood there will probably be raffling by those who assemble as had often been the case?"

The committee recommended that the question be answered in the negative.

The report was accepted and the overture together with the whole subject of Church fairs was referred to the following committee to report during the present session, Messrs. Foster and Blauvelt, ministers and Bloomfield, Elder.

Rev. J. Leighton Wilson of the Synod of South Carolina being present was invited to sit as a corresponding member and it was resolved, that Mr. Wilson as one of the Secretaries of the Board of Foreign Missions be requested to address the Synod on the subject of Foreign Missions this evening in connection with the exercises of the Synodical Prayer Meeting.

The committee on Bills and overtures presented overture No. 2 on the subject of the 'Maine Law' and recommended the adoption of the following Resolution No. 4.

The report was accepted and after some debate on a motion to adopt the debate was arrested by the order of the day.

The subject of Parochial Schools was taken up. The report of the committee appointed on the subject which was presented and accepted at the last meeting of Synod was read.

In the progress of a debate on a motion to adopt the report, the Rev. Dr. Scott of the Particular Synod of New York of the Reformed Dutch Church appeared in Synod and was invited to sit as a corresponding member.

After a lengthened debate on the motion, the indefinite postponement of the motion was moved, then the subject was laid on the table.

The committee on devotional exercises of Synod presented the following report which was adopted (No. 5).

The committee on Bills and overtures reported overture No. 3, a petition for the establishing of a new Presbytery out of the Presbytery of New Brunswick on which they recommended the following, (No. 6) which was accepted and then indefinitely postponed.

Recess until the hour of public worship in the evening.

After recess Synod attended the services of the Synodical Prayer Meeting at which the narrative of the State of Religion was read and addresses made by the Moderator and Rev. Dr. Wilson, after which Synod was called to order and adjourned till tomorrow morning. Closed with prayer.

Thursday Morning 9 O'clock

Synod met pursuant to adjournment and was opened with prayer- present as before Rev. Geo. E. Mott, Presbytery of Elizabethtown, Albridge Bradbury, same Presbytery- late attendance, etc., Rev. Solomon McHair, Presbytery of Newton, late attendance, etc., Rev. Thos. N. Cattell and Chas. H. Lwing, West Jersey, late attendance, Rev. Smith Burges, Newton, Rev. Alden Corril and Dr. Van Rensselaer appeared in Synod and assigned satisfactory reasons, etc.

Minutes of last session read.

Passaic minutes approved, New Brunswick minutes approved, Beriton, approved, Musquehanna approved, Newton approved, and Burlington, approved.

Committee on leave of absence reported that they had given leave of absence to the following persons (No. 7 on file). Accepted and adopted.

Rev. Luther Halsey, D.D., Presbytery of Passaic appeared in Synod and assigned satisfactory reasons for late attendance.

Committee appointed to take into consideration the division of Synod made the following report (No. 8) which was accepted and put on the docket.

A communication was received from the Board of Education which was read. The following resolutions were presented in connection with this communication (No. 9) when the order of the day was postponed with the view of considering the resolution proposed which were adopted and are as follows, etc.

The unfinished business, etc (temperance) was taken up when it was Resolved, that the members of the Synod in speaking on this subject be restricted to five minutes each (Amendment 1st by Mr. Hageman), (Amendment 2nd by Mr. Kennedy).

Motion to commit to a committee of 5 to report this afternoon at the close of the recess. Committee, Mr. Janeway, Magie and Ogden, Ministers and Kennedy and J. P. Hageman, Elders.

Had a recess until $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2.

At the close of the recess Synod met.

The committee appointed to examine records of Elizabethtown reported. Approved.

The committee on Temperance reported the following (No. 10) on file. Unanimously. Accepted and adopted.

Committee on division of Synod was taken up and after debate was postponed to the next meeting of Synod.

Committee on Church Fair reported and the report was accepted and after being amended so as to read as follows (No. 11) was adopted.

Committee appointed to examine the records of the Presbytery of West Jersey reported approved and the report was adopted.

Committee appointed to examine the records of the Presbytery of Luzerne reported approval, which was adopted.

Resolved, that, the Synod in concurrence with a resolution of the General Assembly would earnestly recommend to the people of the congregations in their connection to unite with their fellow citizens in urging upon the Government of the United States the duty of providing by treaty with foreign countries wherever necessary for the enjoyment on the part of American citizens when traveling or sojourning in such countries, rights of conscience and of religious worship. Mo. 12 (send copy to hall). Division of the following resolution was offered. Synod.

Resolved, that on any attempt to incorporate the truths of Christianity and infuse the spirit of the Gospel into our higher education no measures should be taken which will turn to throw the influence of the church in favor of one set of institutions on the ground of their formal ecclesiastical relation for the purpose of securing to them an endowment and so determining the course of students, or in any way whatever interfering between local institutions which are in effect and to all practical purposes under the influence of the church and doing her work.

After discussion the matter of this resolution was by motion referred to a committee to report at next meeting of Synod.

Moderator appointed as that committee, Drs. Lizzie, Rope and Hollock. (paper 13).

Thanks.

Hall to be called.

A P P E N D I X

1. RESOLUTIONS AND IMPORTANT ACTIONS.
2. NARRATIVE OF THE STATE OF RELIGION.
3. PRESBYTERIAL STATISTICAL REPORTS.

1853

No. 1. The committee on the division of the Synod, unanimously recommend the following plan of division.

To memorialize the General Assembly to erect the Presbyteries of New Brunswick--Burlington and West Jersey into a new Synod to be called the Synod of _____.

No. 2. The Synod having received a communication from the Board of Education in regard to the decrease of Candidates for the ministry, and entertaining the conviction of their responsibilities to God, in view of the existing state of things, do resolve.

1. That the duty of perpetuating the ministry in sufficient numbers to meet the wants of the world, is one of the most solemn obligations of the Christian church, and that the attention of our church sessions--of parents--and of pious young men needs at this time to be peculiarly directed to the consideration of the means and motives having a relation to the end in view.

2. That more than usual prominence ought to be given in the present state of our affairs, by our pastors and stated supplied, in leading the weekly devotions of the sanctuary to prayer to the Lord of the harvest, "that He would send forth laborers into his harvest."

3. That in conformity with the recommendation of the General Assembly, this Synod do earnestly invite all its churches to observe the last Thursday of February next, as a day of special prayer for the outpouring of the spirit of God upon the youth in our literary institutions, and particularly that many may be called to the work of the ministry.

No. 3. The Synod of New Jersey having had before them the great cause of Temperance, find it difficult to express in words their convictions of its magnitude and importance whether viewed in its bearings upon the great interests of society, the church or the world, and its high claims upon the friends of humanity, and religion. They therefore, commend it anew to the prayers and efforts of all the churches within their bounds- and while they do not lose sight of the fact that the gospel wisely and faithfully preached and accompanied by the agency of the Holy Spirit, is the grand instrument appointed of God for the moral renovation of the world, they do rejoice most sincerely in the interest this cause is awakening in the minds of the people in its relation to the suppression of crime and the administration of justice, and in the efforts which are being made to secure right legislation in the prohibition of the traffic in intoxicating drinks as a beverage.

No. 4. The committee to whom was referred the consideration of the propriety of what are called "church fairs" made the following report. That in their view, the disposing of articles by raffle or lottery at such fairs, as it is understood has been done, deserves severe rebuke. The evil of lotteries is now universally admitted, nor can they be rendered good by connecting with them a religious motive or object. It ought to be borne in mind, also that lotteries are forbidden by the law of the state, which law as good citizens we are bound to regard.

In view of the these and other facts, the committee propose the following resolution.

Resolved. That such are the evils attendant upon, and resulting from, Church fair, that if not unlawful, they are at least among the things that are not expedient.

NARRATIVE OF THE STATE OF RELIGION
1853

The topics embraced in the Narrative of the State of religion are not merely of present importance, but are connected both with the past and with the future. The causes and the results of the present condition of the church lie both beyond the year that is now closed. The character of the present has been impressed upon it by the past, and itself contributes to mould the character of the future. The history of that influential past commences before the world was and that future extends beyond its dissolution.

That year would undeniably be one of the Lord's right hand in which He signally answered the prayers and blessed the labors, which had come up as a memorial before him--by sending forth his spirit into all his churches for the conviction of sinners and their conversion as well as for the sanctification of his people, and which prepared plentiful harvests for the future by prayers offered in like faith, and labors consecrated by like piety--Each passing year will be reviewed with joy or with sadness as it conforms to this standard--Because the year now ended thus judged is bright, the churches should rejoice in the fruit God has given to their former desires, and the promise he affords of future blessings.

The condition of the churches represented in this Synod is prosperous and encouraging. Their communicants are walking in the order and enjoying the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Their children and youth are generally instructed in the Sabbath Schools--in catechetical and Bible Classes--means of grace which in some districts have received increased attention--and in many instances their daily studies are hallowed by the reading of the scriptures and by prayer at the opening and close of the school, and by the study of the first principles of the doctrine of Christ. Their ministers preach the word "plainly--earnestly--affectionately and plentifully," through the more private means of the prayer meeting--the lecture and pastoral visitation, and thus diffuse

a steady influence for good. Their congregations are advancing both in numbers and in attention to the truth. Upon nine of these in three Presbyteries has the spirit been poured out, leading sinners to Christ and building up the church. This gracious gift has been bestowed upon the First church of Morristown in the Presbytery of Passaic--upon the churches of Wilkes-barre and Tamaqua in the Presbytery of Luzerne, and upon the churches of Blairstown-Stewartsville-Stillwater and Hacketts-town of the Presbytery of Newton--other churches enjoy at this time an increasing spiritual interest. The demand for greater church accommodation has been in a good degree met by the enlargement or erection of houses of worship. The desire for more abundant pastoral care has led to the separation of churches hitherto constituting one pastoral charge. The destitute fields are in some instances receiving the good seed of the word, and in others urgently inviting reapers lest the harvest perish. The cause of temperance vitally connected with all public morality, receives and rejoices in the vigorous aid afforded by our Ministers and members in the noble work now attempted by its friends and the lands that sit in darkness are blessed by the increased prayerfulness and liberality of our churches.

The Narrative from the Presbytery of Luzerne is prefaced by statements of such permanent value to the historian and so cheering to the Christian that no apology is deemed necessary for its insertion in this connection. "This Presbytery has just completed its tenth year, having held its first meeting in September 1843. It then consisted of 4 Ministers--all pastors, and had under its care 7 or 8 Congregations--1 Licentiate and 3 Candidates--It consists now of 14 Ministers, ten of whom are pastors, and has under its care 19 Congregations, 5 Licentiates and 4 Candidates. All Congregations have the stated ministrations of the gospel, but three--six are receiving Missionary and ten are self supporting. eight houses of worship have been erected--six are now in progress."

This condition of the churches certainly should cheer the friends of Zion. The labors of the church are now put forth in every department of her duty, and such success attends them as shews that the Lord is on her right hand. The fruits of former years of blessing are now in the enjoyment of the churches, and they encourage hope for the future.

This good is transmitted to the coming year not without alloy. The Presbyteries warn of evils encroaching upon us from without and of sins threatening our prosperity from among ourselves. The violation of the Sabbath on public works of the state, and by others not of our communion presents both a field in which we should labor, and a seductive example which we should resist. Our youth, as well as others are exposed to what has been truly styled the deadening influence "of those perversive troubleshooters of Israel miscalled innocent amusements and light reading." The prominent destructive elements within ourselves are found in our prosperity. One is found in the fields where the whitened harvest is perishing through neglect, while those already subdued receive abundant attention. "Doors," says the Presbytery of Luzerne, "are opening for several new laborers, and we need men willing to labor for the salvation of souls in obscure corners, and to receive only a scanty support. But many are deterred from entering them." The existence of such a destitution unsupplied in a Synod where the gospel has been long enjoyed and so signally successful as in this, awakens fear for the continuance of the blessings we acknowledge. Because Israel refused to subdue the land of which a part was conquered, they were perished during many years. Because they were willing, that the ripened fruits of the Gentiles should perish ungathered they received wrath to the uttermost. When their Christian Churches suffer the precious seed which the great Husbandman has sown with prayers and tears to ripen ungathered, do they not incorporate unto their prosperity the destructive element of God's displeasure?

Another cause working injury to Zion is presented thus distinctly by one Presbytery--though all to a greater or lesser degree feel its power--"We mourn over the fact to which our eyes cannot be closed, that many of Christ's professed followers are led by worldliness into the land of spiritual forgetfulness. In the noise of Vanity Fair and

the excitement of business, we fear that the closet--the family altar and the means of grace are too often neglected and forgotten. We mourn that as a consequence of this so many stay away from the solemn feasts of Zion, and so few feel upon their hearts and consciences the convincing argument of Christian example." A grievous sin and a sore punishment are here disclosed. The waters of life which flow from the throne of God are thus cut off from his church and his influence over the world is destroyed. This is a vital failure. Vain are our increased congregations if worldliness choke the word that it becometh unfruitful--Vain are our multiplied agencies for doing good if worldliness chills the Christian love which should pervade and animate them--Vain are our commodious houses of worship if worldliness checks the desire after God and the remembrance of his grace--a church invaded--enfubled--crippled by worldliness is a fearful legacy to bequeath to the coming year.

Yet elements are found antagonistic to these injurious tendencies, and encouraging hope. The churches are not satisfied with mere external prosperity. The Presbyteries acknowledge with remarkable unanimity that their churches enjoy very general external prosperity. Yet all express either a fear that this exceeds their growth in spirituality and devotion to their master's cause--or a desire for better things--No one is satisfied with its present attainments, otherwise their prosperity should be dreaded as their vene. But their desires clearly expressed shew that their hearts pant after God. They deem it a small matter that their candlesticks are of burnished gold and ranged in comely order, unless the Lord will walk amongst them. Such desires are not usually fruitless.

The desire expressed by nearly all the Presbyteries for a general visitation of the spirit is also encouraging. The burden of the lamentation is the absence of any general revival of religion. They acknowledge the prosperity of single churches and the aggregate advances of the Lord's cause, but deplore the absence of those "great and powerful revivals which refreshed the souls of believers and made aggressions on the kingdom of darkness." This fact is significant.

The churches of Christ have by their representatives solemnly recorded their heartfelt sorrow that the Lord's wonderful works are not seen, and have added to their sadness, prayers that in this way He would establish his kingdom. Is it not of the spirit that their hearts are so generally turned in this direction? And may we not hope that He who has taught them thus to pray designs a gracious answer to their petition?

Were all things else in our condition discouraging this desire would inspire hope. The church thrives and prevails by prayer. The ear of the Shepherd of Israel open to her cry is her unfailing source of support and of victory. Thus has she risen from the dust when worldly influences and the sons of earth combined against her, and became through their defeat a praise in the earth. Thus will the church prevail until the kingdom's of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ. But when strong desires ascend to God from a church that He has already increased with good--in portions of which he is even now causing men to inquire "what shall I do to be saved," they become well nigh tokens of his actual presence. "A gleam of light glows in our horizon, which we trust is the harbinger of the perfect day"--May the Lord hasten it in his time, and as He has granted blessings, rich and precious, may He grant also to all the churches the spirit whose fruit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth.

PRESBYTERIAL
STATISTICAL REPORTS
1853

1. The Presbytery of Elizabethtown reports to the Synod of New Jersey that in compliance with its own request it was, by the action of the Synod, at its last stated meeting, divided into two nearly equal parts, one of which was erected into a new Presbytery, called the Presbytery of Passaic. The Presbytery of Elizabethtown now consists of 21 Ministers, and has under its care 17 Churches, 4 Licentiates and 5 Candidates.

The Presbytery further report that on the 20th of October 1852, they dissolved the pastoral relation between the Rev. Joseph Cory and the church of New Vernon--that on the same day they dismissed the Rev. James Richards D. D. to join the Presbytery of New Brunswick--and received the Rev. Wm. N. Martin from the Presbytery of Brooklyn--that on the 26th of October 1852, they installed the Rev. James Petrie pastor of the church of Pluckamin, and the Rev. Wm. M. Martin, pastor of the lat church of Woodbridge--that on the 15th of February 1853, they dismissed the Rev. Joseph Cory to join the Presbytery of New York--and received the Rev. William Huntting from the Presbytery of Susquehanna, and on the same day installed him pastor of the church of New Vernon--that on the 19th of April they received the Rev. George Sheldon from the Charleston Presbytery--and dismissed the Rev. John K. Davis to join the Presbytery of Newton, and Mr. David Pierson a licentiate to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Passaic--that on the same day they received the Rev. Mr. Pfister a foreign minister to full standing and dismissed him to join the South Classis of New York of the Reformed Dutch Church, and received under their care the German Church of Rahway--that on the 20th of the same month, they dissolved the pastoral relation between the Rev. Lewis H. Lee and the 2nd church

of Rahway--and licensed Messrs. George M. S. Blauvelt, and William Miller to preach the gospel--that on the 9th of June they dismissed the Rev. Lewis H. Lee to join the Presbytery of Troy--that on the 27th of the same month, they dismissed Mr. George M. S. Blauvelt a licentiate to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Passaic--that on the 5th of October, they received under their care Mr. George W. Mott a licentiate from the Presbytery of New York, and on the same day received under their care the German Church of Myersville--that on the 16th of October, they received the Rev. Samuel Matthews from the Presbytery of Lexington--and that on the 19th of October (this day) they ordained Mr. George S. Mott a licentiate under their care to the work of the gospel ministry, and installed him pastor of the 2nd church of Rahway. The Presbytery further report that the churches under their care have very generally contributed to the various Boards of the church.

All which is respectfully submitted.

By order of Presbytery.

JAMES T. ENGLISH, Stated Clerk.

2. The Presbytery of Passaic report to the Synod of New Jersey that the Presbytery held their first meeting in conformity with the direction of the Synod, in the First Presbyterian church of Paterson, on Wednesday the 10th day of November 1852, at 7 o'clock P. M. and was opened with a sermon by the Rev. David Wagle D.D. who presided, and was afterwards chosen--Moderator.

The Presbytery of Passaic consists of 19 Ministers, and have under their care 14 Churches and 1 Licentiate.

The Presbytery further report that on the 20th day of April 1853, they dissolved the pastoral relation between the Rev. Joseph McConnell and the church of Mount Olive--that on the 3rd day of May they installed the Rev. Orlando S. Kirtland pastor of the church of Springfield and received under their care Mr. David H. Pierson a licentiate from the Presbytery of Elizabethtown--that on the 28th day of June, they dissolved the pastoral relation between the Rev. Abraham Williamson and

the church of Chester, and received Mr. John H. Husted a licentiate from the Presbytery of Tusquehanna--that on the 29th of June, they ordained Mr. John H. Husted to the work of the gospel ministry, and installed him pastor of the church of Flanders--that on the 20th of September they dissolved the pastoral relation between the Rev. Horatio N. Brinsmade D. D. and the 3rd church of Newark, and received under their care Mr. George M. S. Blauvelt, a licentiate from the Presbytery of Elizabethtown and on the 21st of September, ordained Mr. George M. S. Blauvelt to the work of the gospel ministry, and installed him pastor of the church of Chester.

All which is respectfully submitted.

By order of Presbytery.

WILLIAM H. HOENBLOMER, Stated Clerk.

3. The Presbytery of New Brunswick report to the Synod of New Jersey that they consist of 47 Ministers, and have under their care 29 Churches, 15 Licentiates and 15 Candidates.

The Presbytery further report that on the 26th of October 1852, they received the Rev. James Richards D. D. from the Presbytery of Elizabethtown--that on the 27th of December they gave a dismission to Mr. Joseph Martin a candidate, to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Redstone--that on the 3rd of February 1853, Mr. A. A. Rice returned his license to the Presbytery, he having chosen another profession that on the same day they dropped from their roll of members the name of the Rev. Hamilton Ballentine, he having been set off by the General Assembly to the Presbytery of the Creek Nation--that on the same day they dismissed Mr. Marcus J. Wallace a licentiate to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Eastern Texas--received the Rev. Thaddeus S. Wilson from the Presbytery of Hudson--and Mr. Thomas S. Withrow a candidate from the Presbytery of West Hanover--and received on trials as candidates for the gospel Ministry Messrs. Charles H. Toote, Charles H. Skillman, Henry H. Smith, William Alcorn, Lorenzo Wescott and Andrew Barkley--that on the 5th of the same month, they dismissed Mr. William Y. Brown a li-

centiate to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of New Lisbon--that on the 17th of the same month, they installed the Rev. Thaddeus Wilson, pastor of the church of Shrewsbury--that on the 22nd of April, they dismissed Mr. Henry Bittinger a licentiate to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Winchester--and on the same day received under their care the church of Red Bank, which had been organized by a committee of the Presbytery--that on the 27th of the same month, they dissolved the pastoral relation between the Rev. Theodore S. Cuyler and the 3rd church of Trenton--and licensed Messrs. Gaspar W. Hodge, P. Reck Harbaugh, George C. Fleming, Thomas Scott, Witherow, Wm. W. Sickles, James Gilmore, Samuel Hodge, Wm. C. Mosher and Wm. M. Blackburn to preach the gospel and received on trials as candidates for the gospel ministry Messrs. L. P. Balissari, H. B. Pratt, Alexander Plummer, J. G. Symmes, Thomas C. Graham and Andrew B. Morse--that on the 5th of May, they ordained Mr. John L. Nevius a licentiate under their care, to the work of the gospel ministry as an Evangelist--that on the 23rd of August, they dismissed Mr. James Gubby a licentiate to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of St. Louis--that on the 21st of September, they dismissed Mr. William Cathcart Jr. a licentiate to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Fort Wayne--that on the 28th of the same month, they dismissed Mr. Robert G. Williams a licentiate, he having accepted a call in a congregational church and on the 29th dismissed Mr. John W. Pratt, a licentiate to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Philadelphia--that on the 4th of October, they ordained Messrs. Samuel M. Hamill and Charles W. Baird, licentiates under their care, to the work of the gospel ministry as evangelists--and received the Rev. James W. McDonald from the Presbytery of New York--that on the same day they dissolved the pastoral relation between the Rev. Isaac N. Shannon and the 2nd church of New Brunswick--dismissed the Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler to the South classis of New York and also dismissed the Rev. John L. Nevius to the Presbytery of Ningpo, and licensed Mr. Henry H. Smith to preach the gospel, and that on the 18th of October they received the Rev. Jacob Kirkpatrick Jr. from the Presbytery of Raritan.

All which is respectfully submitted.

By order of Presbytery.

ELI F. COOLEY, Stated Clerk.

4. The Presbytery of Newton report to the Synod of New Jersey that they consist of 24 Ministers, and have under their care 21 Churches, 2 Licentiates and 2 Candidates.

They further report that on the 10th of October 1852, they received the Rev. James J. Film from the Presbytery of West Jersey--that on the 19th of April 1853, they received the Rev. Robert E. Wells from the Lake Presbytery--that on the same day they dissolved the pastoral relation between the Rev. John Skinner D. D. and the church of Harmony, and dismissed Mr. Robert Wallace a licentiate to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Redstone--that on the 20th of April, they received under their care, Mr. Gershon Goble, a licentiate from the Presbytery of Alleghany--that on the 12th of May, they received the Rev. Solomon McNair from the Presbytery of Donegal, and on the same day, installed him pastor of the church of Mansfield, and received the Rev. John K. Davis from the Presbytery of Elizabethtown--that on the 29th of June, having been informed that the Rev. John Skinner D. D. had been received as a member of the Presbytery of Hamilton, Canada West, in connection with the Established Church of Scotland, they dropped his name from the roll--that on the 4th of October, they dissolved the pastoral relation between the Rev. Andrew Tully and the church of Lower Mount Bethel--dismissed the Rev. Nathaniel S. Conkling to join the Presbytery of Sangamon--that on the same day they dismissed the Rev. John Turbitt to join the Presbytery of Peoria, and dissolved the 2nd church of Stillwater--and that on the 19th of October, (this day) they received the Rev. Smith Sturges from the Presbytery of Buffalo.

All which is respectfully submitted.

By order of Presbytery.

HENRY BREWES, Stated Clerk.

5. The Presbytery of Maritan report to the Synod of New Jersey that they consist of 12 Ministers, and have under their care 16 Churches, 2 Licentiates and 2 Candidates.

The Presbytery further report that on the 20th of October 1852, they recalled the license of Mr. Samuel Glen--that on the 17th of February 1853, they dissolved the pastoral relation between the Rev. William H. Kirk and the church of Solebury--that on the 20th of April, they ordained Mr. Jacob Kirkpatrick Jr. to the work of the gospel ministry, as an evangelist--that on the 19th of the same month, they received under their care Mr. Samuel M. Osmond, a licentiate from the Presbytery of New Castle--that on the 21st of the same month, they licensed Messrs. Thomas Hempstead and Robert McCulloch to preach the gospel--that on the 12nd of June, they ordained Mr. Samuel M. Osmond to the work of the Christian Ministry and installed him assistant pastor of the second and First United churches of Amwell--that on the 19th of July, they licensed Mr. Stephen L. Mershon to preach the gospel--and received under their care Mr. Henry T. Spayd a licentiate from the Presbytery of Philadelphia--that on the 20th of July, they ordained Mr. Henry T. Spayd to the work of the gospel ministry, and installed him pastor of the church of Solebury, and on the same day dismissed Mr. Robert McCulloch, a licentiate under their care to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Zanesville--that on the 4th of October, they dismissed the Rev. Jacob Kirkpatrick Jr. to join the Presbytery of New Brunswick--and dismissed Mr. Joseph M. Rittenhouse a licentiate to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Donegal.

Respectfully submitted.

By order of Presbytery.

PERCY C. SUDDLAND, Stated Clerk.

6. The Presbytery of Susquehanna report to the Synod of New Jersey that they consist of 15 Ministers, and have under their care 20 Churches and 1 Candidates.

They also report that they Rev. Richard Andrew has departed this life since their last report--that on the 5th day of October 1852, they received under their care the churches of Burlington and Dushore--that on the 3rd of November they dissolved

the pastoral relation between the Rev. E. H. Snowden and the church of Warren, and on the same day dismissed Mr. Mallock Armstrong a licentiate to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Luzerne--that on the 9th of November, they dissolved the pastoral relation between the Rev. S. F. Colt and the church of Wyalusing--that he might give his whole time to the interests of the Institute of Presbytery--that on the 4th of January 1854, they dismissed the Rev. Wm. Huntting, to join the Presbytery of Elizabethtown--that on the 5th of April they dismissed Mr. John K. Husted a licentiate to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of Passaic--and that on the 21st of September, they dissolved the church of Wells and Columbia.

All which is respectfully submitted.

By order of Presbytery.

J'LLIUS FOSTER, Stated Clerk.

7. The Presbytery of Luzerne reports to the Synod of New Jersey that they consist of 14 Ministers, and have under their care 19 Churches, 5 Licentiates and 5 Candidates.

The further report that on the 20th of April 1853, they received under their care from the Presbytery of Northumberland Mr. Robert B. Foresman, a licentiate,--and on the same day dismissed Mr. James B. Scott a licentiate to put himself under the care of the Second Presbytery of Philadelphia--and Mr. William E. Baker a licentiate to put himself under the care of the Presbytery of West Jersey--that on the 17th of June, they licensed Mr. Charles J. Collins a candidate under their care to preach the gospel--that on the 17th of July they installed the Rev. Cornelius L. Lane pastor of the church of Tunkhannock--that on the 12th of September they licensed Mr. Richard E. Edwards, a candidate under their care, to preach the gospel--that on the 21st of September they dropped from their list of candidates, Mr. Pl H. Merntz, and on the same day received under their care as a candidate for the gospel ministry, Mr. David Love, a member of the church of Beaver Meadow.

All which is respectfully submitted.

By order of Presbytery.

RICHARD WEBSTER, Stated Clerk.

8. The Presbytery of West Jersey report to the Synod of New Jersey that they consist of 19 Ministers, and have under their care 18 Churches, 7 Licentiates and 2 Candidates.

They further report that on the 19th of October 1852, they dissolved the pastoral relation between the Rev. L. Knighton and the church of Gloucester--that on the 20th of April 1853 they received the Rev. J. A. Annin from the Presbytery of Elizabethtown--that on the 17th of May they installed the Rev. J. A. Annin pastor of the church of Cedarville--and on the same day received under their care Wm. W. Baker, a Licentiate from the Presbytery of Luzerne--that on the 18th of May, they ordained Mr. Wm. W. Baker to the work of the gospel ministry--and installed him pastor of the 2nd church of Bridgeton, and on the same day ordained Mr. George S. Woodhill a licentiate under their care to the work of the gospel ministry, as an Evangelist--that in the month of May, by the act of the General Assembly the church of Gloucester was transferred to the Presbytery of Philadelphia--that on the 18th of August, the church of Fislerville organized by direction of the Presbytery was taken under their care.

All which is respectfully submitted.

By order of Presbytery.

ALLEN H. BROWN, Stated Clerk.

9. The Presbytery of Burlington report to the Synod of New Jersey that they consist of 5 Ministers, and have under their care 9 Churches, and 1 Licentiate.

The Presbytery further report that on the 28th of October 1852, they installed the Rev. Richard B. Westbrook pastor of the church of Burlington,--and that on the 3rd of November 1852, they ordained Mr. James Stebbins a licentiate under their care to the work of the gospel ministry as an Evangelist.

All which is respectfully submitted.

By order of Presbytery.

SAMUEL MILLER, Stated Clerk.

Princeton Theological Seminary-Speer Library



1 1012 01122 3569